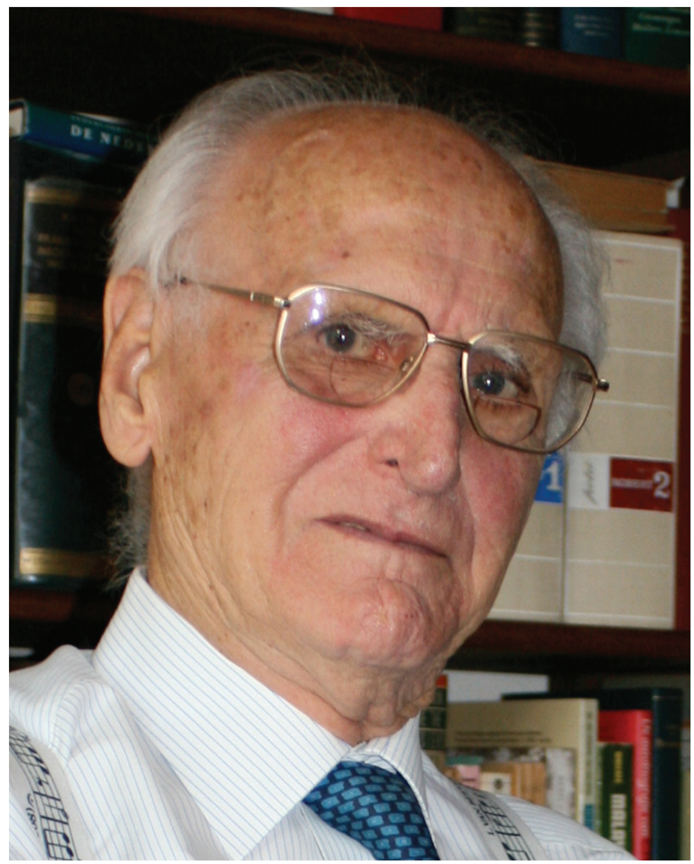
In memoriam Dr Johannes G.J. (Hans) Kuiper (1914-2011)

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Hans Kuiper, in 1914 geboren te Tynaarlo (Drenthe), werd in het oprichtingsjaar 1934 lid van de Nederlandse Malacologische Vereniging. Reeds op jonge leeftijd raakte hij geïnteresseerd in land- en zoetwatermollusken. Zijn speciale aandacht ging uit naar de soorten van de familie Clausiliidae. Geleidelijk aan werd hij gebiologeerd door de erwtenmosseltjes (Sphaeriidae) in het bijzonder de soorten van het geslacht *Pisidium*. Het grootste deel van zijn werkzame leven was hij ambtenaar in diplomatieke dienst te Parijs. Zijn collectie land- en zoetwater mollusken (12.000 monsters) en Sphaeriidae (13.000 monsters), zijn boeken en archieven zijn geschonken aan het voormalige Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam en zijn nu opgenomen in de collectie van Naturalis Biodiversity Center te Leiden. De laatste drie jaar van zijn leven bracht hij door in een verzorgingsappartement in Baarn waar hij tot aan zijn dood de interesse in de malacologie behield. Hij overleed in de ochtend van 7 juli 2011. Al eerder verscheen een supplement van Spirula (Moolenbeek *et al*., 2004) en een supplement van Basteria (Moolenbeek *et al*., 2006) gewijd aan dr J.G.J. Kuiper. Een afscheidrede, uitgesproken door Van Bruggen (2011), werd eveneens in de Spirula gepubliceerd.

Key words: History of malacology, obituary, Sphaeriidae, *Pisidium*



Johannes Gijsbertus Jacobus Kuiper was born on September 3, 1914 in Tynaarlo, the Netherlands. From 1917 until 1921 he resided with his parents, brothers and sisters in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). The eldest children were sent to the Netherlands for their education. As a result of the death of his father in 1933 and the economic crisis he did not have the opportunity to go to university. During the years 1936-1937 he tried to find a job in the Dutch East Indies but being unsuccessful he returned to the Netherlands. In the meantime his interest in malacology grew, also stimulated by his mother who had regularly sent him beautiful shells during his childhood. At the end of the thirties of last century he made collecting trips to Corsica (France), Dalmatia, Croatia and Bosnia (former Yugoslavia).

His main interest was land molluscs, especially the species of the family Clausiliidae.

In 1939 he obtained a position at the Dutch embassy in Berlin (Germany). This was the start of his long diplomatic career, but all of his free time was dedicated to collecting and studying molluscs. With a growing collection he realized that you had to specialize yourself in a so called 'problem' family to have good results. Although he still collected all kinds of land- and freshwater molluscs, his main interest became the study of the small freshwater bivalves of the family Sphaeriidae and in particular the species of the genus *Pisidium.* He collected all over in Europe with special interest for molluscs in alpine lakes and a collecting trip with Drs Van Regteren Altena and Brandt in Cyrenaika (now Libya) was certainly a highlight.

The greater part of his life he was employed at the 'Institut Neerlandais' in Paris and in this city he lived until 2008. In 1984 the University of Amsterdam bestowed upon him the title '*Doctor honoris causa*' in recognition of his scientific studies in malacology. His collections of land- and freshwater molluscs (12,000 samples) and Sphaeriidae (13,000 samples) were donated to the Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam [ZMA] (part of the University of Amsterdam). Also his library and archives were donated to this museum and following a merge of ZMA with Naturalis in 2011 these collections are now part of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden. As a result of all his work for the Netherlands Malacological Society he was made an honorary member.

In 2008, after nearly 60 years in Paris , he moved to a retirement home in Baarn (the Netherlands). Until his death he remained interested in malacology and he passed away in the morning of July 7, 2011.

For a more detailed description of the life of Hans Kuiper and a bibliography I refer to two articles in supplement 1 of the Spirula (Kuiper, 2004; Moolenbeek *et al*., 2004) and to the special Kuiper supplement 3 of Basteria (Moolenbeek *et al*., 2006). A farewell speech at the cremation ceremony by Van Bruggen (2011) was also published in the journal *Spirula*. Thanks are due to Bram van der Bijl, Mike Filmer and Dolf van Bruggen for their corrections and remarks.

Additions to the biography of Moolenbeek, R.G., Coomans, H.E. & François, M., 2004

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